

A GREAT SHOWING FOR ANTI-MOSQUITO CRUSADE

(Continued from page 1.)

ered, small ponds and pools filled and when they could not be filled in to see that they were treated with kerosene.

The president of the Board of Health, acting in behalf of the Board, proffered every assistance in the power of that body, which has religiously been carried out to the present time, thus rendering the campaign assistance which it would not otherwise be financially able to obtain.

The Superintendent of Public Works, through the Superintendent of the Garbage Department, offered assistance of that department and valuable work has been done. It was agreed, as no funds were available, that public subscription be asked for, and I am glad to say that the response was sufficient to enable the committee to proceed with the work, the results during the past year justifying the expenditure and realizing to a great extent our expectations in abating the nuisance.

To further the efficiency of the work an agent of the committee was appointed to take general charge of the movement and carry out detail work. The following committees were proposed and adopted: General, executive, finance and advisory. The President of the Board of Health was made permanent chairman of the committee with executive power to act. Under this power the appointment of Mr. A. D. Larnach, as agent of the Citizens' Mosquito Committee, was made and his work during the past year has proven the choice a wise one. An official circular was at once gotten out, stating objects and instructions for carrying out the work, and published in several languages, and while in Washington I heard remarks of a complimentary nature for the energy and mode of pushing our Territorial crusade.

In carrying out this great work the Board of Health have lent every moral and financial aid in its power—the use of its offices, office force, sanitary inspectors, horses and wagons, etc. The Garbage Department has done and is still doing excellent work. One of the chief functions of a department of health in this connection is educational. People must be taught the danger as they already know the annoyance from mosquitoes. They must be taught how mosquitoes are to be eradicated from any given section of the country and be enlightened to the point where they will gladly co-operate in the work of any central organization which is endeavoring to abate the nuisance and disease caused by mosquitoes. Should the Board of Health endeavor to use its powers in forcing owners of large tracts of low lying property, to fill and drain these tracts, especially if they are unproductive, would perhaps be an abuse of the function of government. On the other hand, by educating owners up to the point where they can see the advantage of this drainage work as we know it, public and private interests will be combined for the improvement of all parts of this city.

The beginning we have made here would not have been possible without the public interest and co-operation shown during the past year. The movement has passed beyond the humorous stage through which all radical measures seem to have to pass. To be sure the "skeptics" have been very much in evidence, but I believe that even the most skeptical would, if he answered honestly, be obliged to admit, much good has been accomplished in diminishing the numbers of this pest. The heavy and continuous rains for several weeks in the winter months, simply showed the necessity of getting rid of the places where water has the chance to accumulate and become stagnant.

Some people said that the prevalence of mosquitoes showed the error of the idea of extermination and mentioned the fact that many gallons of oil had been spread broadcast, not taking into consideration that relatively but a drop had been used, even if the idea had been to rely on the oil for extermination—apparently ignorant of the fact that the successful plan of abatement must mean the destruction of breeding places and not the temporary work of killing the mosquito, after they have reached the larval and pupal stage, by sprinkling oil on the water.

The first National Anti-Mosquito Convention was called in New York city last December. Among those who participated were some of the most prominent scientific and business men of the country, for example, Fredk. C. Beach, editor "Scientific American," Wm. H. Baldwin, Jr., Esq., president L. I. R. R.; Preston H. Bailech, Surgeon U. S. Public Health and U. S. M. H. Service; Robt. W. de Forrest, president Tenement House Commission; Wm. C. Gorgas, Col. and Asst. Surgeon General U. S. A.; John Claffin, Esq., president H. B. Claffin Co., N. Y. City; Leland O. Howard, Ph. D., Wash., D. C.; (one of the most prominent entomologists in the United States); Dr. Ernest J. Lederle, president Department of Health of New York; John B. Smith, State Entomologist of New Jersey, and there are many others of equal fame deserving of mention. At the annual conference of State and Territorial health officials, recently held at Washington, D. C., and at which it was my privilege to be present, the mosquito problem received attention. Probably no place has shown more remarkable results in fighting this plague than Havana. Assistant Surgeon General Gorgas, U. S. A., makes the statement that in the year after the discovery by the Army Medical Board that the mosquito was the means of spreading yellow fever, that a hundred thousand dollars, outside of sanitary work, was spent on mosquito extermination. For the year 1900, the year preceding the beginning of the mosquito work in Havana, 325 deaths were reported from malaria and in 1901 only thirty-nine deaths from malarial fever.

"This is a very fair measure of the amount of general mosquito work done and the results obtained from this class of work, because, from the nature of the disease, the malarial patient could not be isolated and followed up, as was the yellow fever case, and therefore no special work could be done toward destroying the malarial infected mosquito." The consolidated report of January, 1901, just before the mosquito work commenced, showed 26,000 water

deposits containing mosquito larvae within the city limits. The same consolidated report for the following January showed less than 300 for the same area.

President Billings of the American Medical Association, in his introduction of the Reed Memorial Fund, spoke in part as follows: "Major Reed died a year and a half ago. To the medical world no word is necessary to say of Reed to know who he was. The lay public does not know him, and I am afraid the medical public do not now appreciate all he did. Had Reed, as a Major in the Army, performed an act of conspicuous bravery of equal magnitude his name would never die."

Dr. Wm. H. Welch, of Baltimore, also made some eulogistic remarks in regard to the discovery of the committee (of which Major Reed was a member), that the mosquito carried yellow fever: "His service to mankind is to be paralleled only in two or three instances and Walter Reed was a man of unusual charm of personality; a man of the very highest character; a man who was scientifically trained to undertake the work which he did. The work which he performed is peculiarly American. He was trained entirely in this country to undertake this work and he undertook it with a complete and adequate training for the purpose. The work was undertaken under the auspices of our National Government at a time when we were in military control of the island of Cuba." Dr. Welch further said: "I think we can put it second to the discovery of the control of smallpox by vaccination. It means nothing less than the control of that most dreaded scourge—yellow fever. It is a discovery which rests on a scientific foundation, which has been put to a practical test, and that test has resulted in a complete extermination of yellow fever from the island of Cuba."

There was about \$8000 subscribed at the Atlantic City meeting towards a memorial fund for the erection of a monument to the memory of Major Walter Reed, U. S. A. In connection with this example of heroism it is not amiss to mention the name of Dr. Jesse Lazear who was a member of this commission and who lost his life by being inoculated with the disease and succumbing to its fatal influence.

Henry Clay Weeks, on the subject of "Mosquito Engineering," hits the nail fairly on the head. "A preferable term is economic engineering, which would cover all the ideas involved in extermination—such as drainage of saturated areas, large or small, salt or fresh, and their utilization for agricultural or residence purpose; the improvement of the living conditions of those adjacent to such places, generally the poorer and more helpless class; the increase in the tone of life of a community by its ridance from malaria; the stoppage of the yellow fever plague with all its consequences; the scenic attractiveness which comes of the abolition of foul wet places which are generally used as dumping grounds of the wastes of a community; the reflex and direct effect of humanity to animals; the increase of comfortable out-door living and other results. All this is closely allied to health not only in the meaning from malaria and other diseases, but in a general way in the lessening of the irritations of life on which health so greatly depends. So that the sphere of mosquito engineering or better economic engineering, is very broad. It becomes a powerful aid to bettering the conditions of life, health and the pursuit of happiness. Much of the engineering in the past has been for and not against the mosquito. This is true in every line of work of the engineer. It is seen in road building, in railroad construction, in house construction and even in landscape gardening—anywhere where there is a chance to form a breeding place or to prevent one in the disposition of the surface of the soil. There is an adapted sense in which the term mosquito engineering can be used, and that is the engineering of conditions so that others, possibly all, will aid in the betterment—the enlistment of co-operation—the proving to the people by words and acts that extermination is possible and is advantageous in every way. In that way as much can be done towards the success of the movement as can be done by the outlay of hundreds of dollars in physical work. To a degree then, we may all be mosquito engineers, preventing breeding places, destroying those that do exist and enlisting the interest of every one to aid in bettering the conditions of life."

In summing up, would suggest that we become allied with the National Society for extermination of the mosquito. Also that it is the general consensus of opinion: (1st) That more effective work can be done under authorized boards of health, and when their powers are limited, special legislation should be enacted. (2nd) That aid should be given by the State, Territorial or Federal Government where the required expenditures are in excess of the abilities of the local communities to stand. Congress should enact special legislation upon the subject, conferring power upon the Public Health, Agricultural or War Departments, under certain restrictions, to aid such communities in intelligently and effectively carrying out comprehensive plans for the extermination of the mosquito.

DR. DAY'S VIEWS.

The views of Dr. F. R. Day, on the history of mosquitoes with relation to medical science, were expressed as follows:

It is well for us to pause occasionally in our busy lives and by looking backward get a more comprehensive idea of the progress that is being made in human affairs. It gives us a better appreciation what is actually being done—a perspective view as it were. If we do this in relation to the subject under discussion this evening we will not have to go back very far before coming to a time when the mosquito was considered merely a nuisance—a pest to be suppressed for comfort's sake. We did not like to have our evenings disturbed by its nerve irritating song or our skins pierced by its bill, now, thanks to the careful investigations of painstaking scientists we know that she is more than a nuisance and a

pest to health and a danger to life. To meet the demand was pledged, a superintendent appointed and work begun.

To start with, some of the most intelligent of our community were very dubious as to our being able to accomplish anything, giving as some of their reasons that mosquitoes lived in damp grass, in algaroba trees, in fern leaves, etc., all of which are impossibilities.

These impressions have probably been gathered from the fact that mosquitoes seek shelter in all of the above mentioned places.

With the assistance of the regular force of sanitary inspectors, a systematic search for, and collection of tin cans, pots, pans, bottles and all containers likely to hold water, was made and this debris carted to a scow and dumped far out at sea. To demonstrate the good we claimed would result from such cleaning up, and to interest the citizens in the campaign, this work was done without any expense whatever to the householder, and carried on for some months, several hundred tons of such rubbish being so disposed of, after which time, the inspectors have been getting people, that do not use the regular garbage service, to bury the objectionable containers. This with the usual warning against standing water, an appeal to regularly oil cesspools, etc., and a thorough distribution of circulars giving instructions as to mosquito control—Board of Health circular No. 1—were the first steps taken.

The public have been encouraged to report places where mosquitoes were unusually thick, and in no case where such complaint has been made, followed up, and the instructions of the examining inspector followed out, have the pests been as troublesome as before. In most cases the annoyance has been done away with altogether. This is no hasty conclusion from one single instance, but result from scores of experiences extending from Waikiki to Waialua.

There are very few of the general public, that do not recognize the good accomplished, and the difference in the mosquito nuisance noticed in and around Honolulu, since the work started. A very conservative estimate is that there are at least fifty per cent less than usual. With the experience gained in this year's work it is the opinion of your agent that next season a still better showing will be made.

With regard to the co-operation of the different departments, with the Board of Health to assist this movement, while all have assisted to the fullest extent, the Department of Public Works must be specially mentioned. Every appeal for assistance has been granted, from the loan of a gang of prison laborers to ditch, clean, or drain, a team of mules or wagon to gather tin cans, to the loan of a shovel or rake. All of these and many other favors have been asked for and granted readily. With such assistance from the different departments, the work is made much easier and more effective.

As far as possible for some time considerable work has been done on permanent improvements, such as filling, draining, or ditching, so that should such another wet spell come, as we had during the early part of this year, there will not be as many places to hold the water. In one instance here in town, one owner at the suggestion of your agent obtained nearly 100 loads of black sand to fill in a low-lying spot. Dozens of instances where the amount of filling required varied from a few wheelbarrow loads, to a dray load, have been run across, and in every instance one more breeding place has been permanently done away with.

This campaign which was started not for the purpose of killing every mosquito on the Islands, more as an experiment, and with the idea of doing away with as many of the pests as possible, has shown us clearly what can be done, and it is sincerely hoped that the mosquito movement will remain a permanent organization, as a few months of neglect or indifference, would cause things to drift along to the conditions encountered at the start.

Below you will find the financial report which shows what funds have been received and how spent. The most rigid economy has been practiced, and for the amount of money expended an enormous amount of work has been accomplished. All our subscriptions are small, the total being less than \$200 per month. It is hoped that in the new year of our work, many new subscribers will come forward and help along a work that not only benefits themselves, but the whole community.

Respectfully submitted,
ALEX. D. LARNACH.

Entomologist Van Dine, who has made an exhaustive, and therefore valuable study of the mosquitoes in the islands, gave an excellent lantern slide exhibition, showing in enlarged forms the various types of mosquitoes, and illustrated his remarks by slides representing various sections of Honolulu which have been known breeders of mosquitoes. Pictures of ponds at Waikiki showing brackish water were exhibited, as well as of ponds at Waikiki, taro patches, low-lying places in the Ewa end of the city, standing fresh water, rice-fields, the Nuuanu stream with some stagnant stretches, places which have needed filling-in, and places remedied, typical breeding places in cans, tubs, pools, etc.

Judge Dole thought a vigorous campaign against mosquitoes to be vital to society. If the mosquitoes could be diminished he was of the opinion that disease would be eased off and it would even tend to diminish poverty and pauperism. The lessening of disease would naturally have the tendency to prevent much pauperism. The result of the work had been so satisfactory in Honolulu that citizens generally should take hold and do more in the future.

Mr. Larnach's financial report showed about \$1400 collected towards the campaign, with \$1200 in expenditures, leaving about \$200 in the bank.

The active directors of the Citizens' Mosquito Committee are: L. E. Pinkham, president Board of Health; C. B. Cooper, M.D., J. S. B. Pratt, M.D., F.

One of the most interesting features of the meeting was the report of A. D. Larnach, who had charge of the systematic campaign against mosquitoes, in which the effective results showing a diminished number of the pests was shown. He spoke as follows:

I beg to report on the organization and work of the Citizens' Mosquito Committee, from the inauguration of the movement to date. As an introduction, a few general remarks will not be out of order.

For years past many districts in these Islands, practically all at the lower levels, have suffered from the almost continuous presence of swarms of mosquitoes. Just as continuous have been the efforts of the people of this Territory to protect themselves from the torment of these pests. The general practice has formerly been to gain relief by protection from the adult. The remedies as you know consisted of the screening of houses, and the burning of bubach, or insect powder.

Investigation along the line of mosquito extermination, demonstrated at least ten years ago, that these are not proper remedies for the mosquito nuisance. The generally accepted remedy consists of various methods directed entirely against the breeding places of this insect, and the success of these remedies is due to the absolute fact, that mosquitoes during their young stage, are truly aquatic, and require water in which to breed.

Recognizing this fact many communities throughout the United States have gained relief, and demonstrated beyond doubt the feasibility of ridding any mosquito infested locality of the nuisance.

The results of work of this character prove conclusively that for any community or country to submit to the presence of mosquitoes, in so great numbers, as has formerly occurred throughout this Territory, is a great mistake.

Something over a year ago, through the efforts of public-spirited citizens an organization was talked of whose object would be to take some definite, vigorous action in ridding this particular community of mosquitoes. This idea was heartily endorsed by the local Board of Health, and arrangements were soon made to have whatever work was instituted carried on under their direction. A committee whose chairman was president of the Board of Health, was at once formed, and plans made for a systematic campaign, the details of which have already been presented to the general public through the press, and various reports of your agent.

It was soon made evident that the work would require the entire time and attention of a superintendent. At once the question of funds to pay the salary of such a man, and the incidental expenses arose. It is gratifying to say

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BACKERS OF THE CRUSADE.

The list of subscribers to the support of the Citizens' Mosquito Committee of Honolulu for the year ending Oct. 1, 1904, is as follows:

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Rice & Perkins intend taking a panoramic photograph of Waikiki beach at 2 p. m. tomorrow and wish to have as many people in the water and along the shore as possible. The work is for the Hawaii Promotion Committee.

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